Hyracodon

Hyracodon ('hyrax tooth') is an extinct genus of mammal.



Restoration by Charles R. Knight.

It was a lightly built, pony-like mammal about 1.5 m (5 ft) long. Hyracodon's skull was large in comparison to the of rest the body. Hyracodon's dentition resembled that of later rhinoceroses, but it was a much smaller animal and differed very little in appearance from primitive horses of which

it was a contemporary (32–26 million years ago). It had a short, broad snout and its long, slender limbs had three digits.^[2]

Like the primitive horses, <u>hyracodonts</u> inhabited open forests and wooded steppes and turned from browsing foliage to grazing grass. They died out without leaving any descendants and they mark the end of the phylogenetic branch of hornless, running rhinoceroses.

This small, fast-running creature was a close relative of the largest land mammal that ever lived, the 20-ton *Paraceratherium*.

References

- 1. McKenna, M. C; Bell, S. K. (1997). Classification of Mammals above the Species Level. Columbia University Press. ISBN 0-231-11012-X.
- 2. Palmer, D., ed. (1999). *The Marshall Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Animals*. London: Marshall Editions. pp. 283–284. <u>ISBN</u> <u>1-84028-152-9</u>.

Sources

■ Benes, Josef (1979). *Prehistoric Animals and Plants*. Prague, CZ: Artua. p. 220.

Hyracodon Temporal range: Middle Eocene–Late Oligocene

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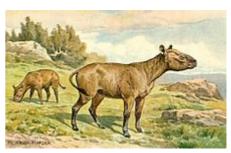


Skeleton in Natural History Museum of Los Angeles

Scientific classification Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Mammalia Order: Perissodactyla Family: †Hyracodontidae Subfamily: Hyracodontinae Hyracodon^[1] Genus: Leidy, 1856 **Species**

- †H. browni
- †H. leidyanus
- †H. medius
- †H. nebraskensis
- †H. petersoni
- †H. affinis
- †H. eximus
- †H. modestus

- †H. primus
- †H. princeps
- †H. priscidens



Restoration by Heinrich Harder.

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